



## *Dry Comal Creek/Comal Creek Watershed Protection Plan*

<b>Water Body</b>	Dry Comal Creek (1811A), Comal River (1811)
<b>Location</b>	Comal County
<b>River Basin</b>	Guadalupe (18)
<b>Contractor</b>	City of New Braunfels
<b>Phase I</b>	August 6, 2015 – July 31, 2016; \$200,000 (Federal 60% and Local Match 40%)
<b>Phase II</b>	August 1, 2016 – August 31, 2018; \$475,000 (Federal 60% and Local Match 40%)

### Background

In 2012, Dry Comal Creek (Segment 1811A), a major tributary of the Comal River, was listed as impaired for bacteria. The bacteria levels in Comal Creek continue to rise. Based on analysis of data collected under ongoing programs, Dry Comal Creek is contributing to the increasing bacteria levels in the Comal River (Segment 1811). The Dry Comal Creek and the Comal River watersheds, which stretch from New Braunfels to the eastern suburbs of San Antonio, are rapidly urbanizing.

### Project Description

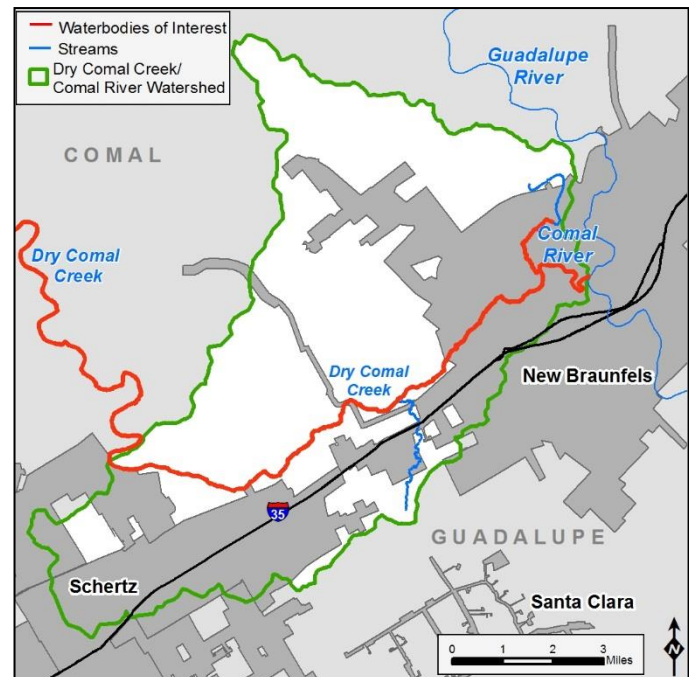
Phase I will produce a watershed characterization of the Dry Comal Creek and the Comal River Watershed, which will provide the foundation for the development of a watershed protection plan. Potential bacteria loads from various sources within the watershed will be evaluated and load duration curves (LDCs) will be used to calculate pollutant load reductions needed to meet state water quality standards.

#### Phase II

Develop a nine-element Watershed Protection Plan, in conjunction with stakeholder input. The City of New Braunfels has committed to perform additional bacteria source tracking (BST) sampling on the Dry Comal Creek and Comal River. Original sampling through the TAMU library-dependent method indicated wildlife was the major contributor of bacteria. The BST results will be used to develop management measures which will address sources of bacteria in the watershed. When completed the nine-element WPP will outline a plan to implement the management measures decided on by the stakeholders.

### Current Status

The LDCs and SELECT were successfully developed with stakeholder input. The Watershed Characterization Report from Phase I is complete. Wildlife, mainly deer, appear to be the highest source of bacteria. A professional facilitator has been hired to coordinate Phase II



stakeholder meetings. Stakeholder meetings were held to get stakeholder input on the development of the entire nine-element WPP. The first draft of the WPP was submitted to TCEQ.

### Public Participation

Stakeholder participation is key to developing and implementing a well-rounded watershed protection plan. The City of New Braunfels has established a water quality workgroup to provide opportunities for public education and involvement. This project will coordinate with the City's education efforts and will build upon previous work to identify the significant subcategories of pollutants that need to be addressed. Stakeholders will be recruited and educated through a variety of programs that focus on the impairment parameters, local water quality issues, and what can be done to improve and protect water quality.

## For More Information

### TCEQ Project Manager

Nicole Pearsall

512.239.6609; [nicole.pearsall@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:nicole.pearsall@tceq.texas.gov),

### City of New Braunfels contact

Mark Enders

830.221.4639; [menders@nbtexas.org](mailto:menders@nbtexas.org)

## Project Highlights

- Phase I
- 09/2015 – Post-award meeting held.
- 11/2015 – QAPP approved
- 01/2016 – website up and running
- 02/2016 – Public stakeholder meeting held in New Braunfels. Initial LDC and SELECT results presented.
- 11/2016 – Public stakeholder meeting held in New Braunfels
- 05/2016 – Public stakeholder meeting held in New Braunfels
- 08/2016 – Watershed Characterization Report approved by TCEQ
- Phase II
- 09/2016 – Post award meeting held.
- 10/2016 – Public stakeholder meeting held in New Braunfels
- 12/2016 – Public stakeholder meeting held in New Braunfels
- 02/2017 – Texas Watershed Stewards workshop held in the watershed
- 03/2017 – Public stakeholder meeting held in New Braunfels
- 07/2017 – Public stakeholder meeting held in New Braunfels
- 08/2017 – Draft WPP submitted to TCEQ